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MANCHESTER MAN SENTENCED IN CRACK COCAINE RING

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that Vincent Winn, age 37, of Manchester, New Hampshire, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Joseph DiClerico to a 151 month term of imprisonment, followed by a five year period of supervised release, for his involvement in a conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine in Manchester, New Hampshire.

The sentence was the result of a one-year investigation conducted by the New Hampshire State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit, in conjunction with the Manchester, New Hampshire Police Department, which revealed that defendant Vincent Winn, together with Kermit Ceasar, Scott Grant, Jerome Griffin and others associated with them, were responsible for the distribution of in excess of 1.5 kilograms of crack cocaine in Manchester, New Hampshire from January, 2001 through February, 2002. Kermit Ceasar was previously sentenced by the Court to a 27 year term of imprisonment followed by a five year term of supervised release. Scott Grant was sentenced to an eleven year term of imprisonment, followed by a four year term of supervised release, and Jerome Griffin was sentenced to a 17 year term of imprisonment followed by a four year period of supervised release.

The investigation revealed that after his release from a five year term of incarceration, in January, 2000, Kermit Ceasar again began the business of obtaining and distributing crack cocaine. Ceasar utilized individuals, including Scott Grant and Jerome Griffin, to obtain and transport large amounts of crack cocaine (which ranged between 30 - 60 ounces) from a source of supply in Texas to DeQuincy, Louisiana. The investigation also disclosed that Ceasar concealed the crack cocaine in packages of meat and shipped the packages to individuals in New Hampshire. Once the crack cocaine arrived in New Hampshire, Ceasar, who traveled frequently between DeQuincy, Louisiana and Manchester, New Hampshire, distributed the crack cocaine himself and utilized other individuals to assist in the distribution of the crack cocaine. While distributing the crack cocaine in Manchester, New Hampshire, Ceasar utilized the services of Vincent Winn, who

acted as Ceasar's bodyguard and prevented individuals from robbing Ceasar of large amounts of currency and crack cocaine. The investigation established that during the time-frame of the conspiracy, approximately two (2) packages, each containing fifteen (15) ounces of crack cocaine, were shipped by Ceasar each week from DeQuincy, Louisiana to Manchester, New Hampshire for distribution.

The prosecution was the result of a joint investigation between the New Hampshire State Police, Manchester, New Hampshire Police Department and the United States Attorney's Office. United States Attorney Colantuono commended the successful investigation and prosecution stating, "One of the keys to federal narcotics prosecution is the ability to punish all members of a drug conspiracy, including those who act as bodyguards for the primary drug dealer in the conspiracy. Our office will continue to hold all members of drug conspiracies responsible for their criminal activity." This case was handled by Assistant U. S. Attorney Terry L. Ollila.